

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

Vol. I. NUMBER 1.

BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY, APRIL 28, 1883.

[PRICE, \$2.00 A YEAR.]

The Bloomfield Publishing Company. The Bloomfield Publishing Company was organized and incorporated April 1, 1883, the charter to expire at the end of fifty years. A meeting of directors was held at the residence of Mr. John Newton on Monday evening, April 16, 1883. The directors are as follows:

HON. AMEL DODD.
JAMES C. BEACH.
THOMAS OAKES.
WILLARD RICHARDS.
WM. H. WHITE, M.D.
JOSEPH D. GALLAGHER.
SAMUEL W. DUFFIELD.
HARRY E. RICHARDS, M.D.
HARVEY M. BARRETT.
JOHN NEWTON.
JOSEPH B. MAXFIELD.
WILLIAM A. BALDWIN.

Mr. Thomas Oakes was elected president; Mr. Willard Richards, vice-president; Mr. John Newton, treasurer; and Mr. William A. Baldwin, secretary.

The Editorial Committee was also chosen—namely:

JOHN NEWTON, Business Manager.
HARVEY M. BARRETT.
HARRY E. RICHARDS.
SAMUEL W. DUFFIELD.
JOSEPH B. MAXFIELD.

About Town.

—The work on the Park is moving forward.

—The homestead of the late Starr Parsons near Brookdale will be sold at auction on Tuesday next, on the premises.

—We notice that the Seminary authorities have complied with the general expectation and cleared up the grounds in front of their building. We must, however, call attention to a heap of rubbish which mars the present appearance of this delightful scene. A raid of five minutes and a little German thoroughness will make it all right.

—The D. L. & W. R. R. have begun the work of improving their station at Bloomfield. The building is to be greatly changed in appearance—repainted, supplied with a porte cochere and an open colonnade at the north end, similar to that at Roseville.

—Mr. N. Harvey Dodd is energetically at work rebuilding his shop, which was lately burned. It has progressed as fast as the weather would allow, and if the weather can be controlled Mr. Dodd has good hopes of success. Being interviewed on the subject, he has stated that the weather has decidedly baffled him.

—Mr. Charles Simcox, of this place, while riding to Newark a few days since, met with a severe accident. When near the canal bridge the horses became unruly, and ran the wagon down a steep bank. Mr. Simcox, fearing an upset, jumped to the ground, and in so doing broke his leg at the ankle. He was taken to Bloomfield, and the bone set by Dr. Ward.

—Mr. Edward S. Wilde is opening a street to run northward from Bloomfield Avenue to West Belleville Avenue. This will render available some fine building sites.

—Mr. James A. Harris, of Florida, who owns some flourishing orange groves, has traded a portion of his property for that of Mr. Samuel S. Neek, on Ridgewood Avenue.

—Mrs. James L. Walsh, of Ridgewood Avenue, is recovering from her recent severe illness.

—Mrs. Jacob F. Randolph and Mr. Hugh Randolph and Mrs. Willard Richards and daughter have engaged passage on the Anchor Line, for Glasgow, for May 25.

—Rev. Samuel W. Duffield is to preach on Thursday evening, May 31, at the dedicatory services held in the new chapel just erected to complete the church edifice of Rev. Walter A. Brooks, in Trenton.

—Mrs. E. R. Cleveland will sail for Liverpool on the Alaska, May 15.

—Hon. Amel Dodd has started upon a business trip to the West, to be absent about a month.

—Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Beach intend to spend the coming six months at Catskill. Mr. Henry Beach, who has purchased the lot on the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Washington, will occupy his brother's house, and attend to the erection of a residence during the summer.

—Miss Kate Bovee has received a very flattering proposition to undertake the care of the primary department of a

Fifth Avenue seminary. She has accepted the position, and will enter upon her duties in the fall.

—Mr. James M. Barrett, Jr., has set out for Dakota, where he will engage in farming, and grow up—we trust prosperously—with the great Northwest.

—Mr. G. S. Porter's handsome house is approaching completion, and is quite a conspicuous object upon Hillside Avenue.

—Mr. George Roubaud proposes to enlarge his residence during the present building season.

—Three of our young gentlemen, having a desire to "go West and fight Indians," stole away the other night. They were recovered on the road to Paterson—which they probably chose because of the scalpers there—and are now at home again, much wiser, and a trifle sadder than of yore.

—The special meet of the Essex County Hunt, postponed on account of heavy rains, will take place at Pine Brook, May 3, at 10:30 A.M.

—Mrs. Mary Q. Rowe, an aged lady, living near the Berkeley school house, met with a severe injury quite recently, by falling down the cellar stairs in her home. Her arm was broken and her head somewhat bruised. With the exception of a very little girl, Mrs. Rowe was alone in the house, and it was some time before assistance could be procured and the bone set. We are glad to say the lady is doing quite well, and is very cheerful under this severe trial.

The Village Improvement Association. A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Village Improvement Association of Bloomfield was held April 25, 1883.

President Davis in the chair. Present: Dr. J. A. Davis, Horace Dodd, John Ruckelsh, E. A. Smith, John Newton, T. H. Ward, N. H. Dodd, Rev. H. W. Ballantine, and G. T. Moore. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. N. H. Dodd, for the Committee on Public Grounds, reported that the Town Committee had placed in his hands an order on the town treasurer for \$1,000 for use in the park improvement, and the work is being pushed forward.

Resolved, That it is the sense of the committee that the appearance of the Park will be improved, and it will be much easier kept in order after the improvement is completed, by the removal of the posts that have formerly been placed around it, and that the Town Committee be respectfully requested to have them removed, or authorize the committee having the improvement in charge to remove them.

The Committee on Public Grounds further reported that the committee had failed in securing the land for a street and removal of the depot, as the owners would not consent to deed unconditionally to the railroad company, and the depot is to be improved in its present location.

The following resolution was unanimously passed, to wit:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this committee that some additional drainage is necessary on the northerly side of the railroad embankment, in the Watersessing Lake bottom, and the secretary is instructed to petition the Town Committee to give the matter their early attention.

It was decided to hold the public meeting on Tuesday, the 8th day of May.

Dr. Davis reported that, in pursuance of the instruction of last meeting, he had set out on the Watersessing Lake bottom 22 trees, at an expense of \$48, and an order was drawn on the treasurer for that sum.

Adjourned, subject to call of Chair.

G. T. MOORE, Secretary.

Protection against Fire. In a recent issue of the Montclair Times there appeared an article in which the writer said, in reference to Bloomfield: "It is gratifying to notice frequent evidence of a new spirit awakened in every part of this fine old village."

One of the evidences of this new spirit is the lively interest taken in the effort on the part of its citizens to provide means for protection against fire.

Some months since, just after the fire which destroyed N. Harvey Dodd's shop and the adjacent dwellings, an effort was made to arouse the interest of the citizens of Bloomfield in regard to this question, but the time for action evidently had not yet arrived, other fires being needed to awaken the people to a lively sense of their necessities.

Then came the fire which destroyed Reuben N. Dodd's stables besides several stores and the hotel, and which, but for the timely assistance rendered by the Newark Fire Department, might have totally ruined the centre of the town.

These two large fires—the largest which Bloomfield has suffered from in years—might in both cases, with a little organized effort at or near the start, have been confined to the several buildings in which they originated.

On the evening of March 21st five persons gathered to discuss the fire question,

feeling that the subject should be brought to the attention of the Town Committee at their meeting the following Thursday evening.

Four of these five persons attended the first meeting of the Town Committee, at which the matter was fully discussed, and while it was shown that the Town Committee could not, this year, make any large appropriation for fire purposes, a fire committee was appointed, composed of Messrs. Oakes, Hayes, and Sherman, to inquire into the question of providing means for putting out fires.

As it was apparent under the law as it now stands, that but little if any help could be expected in the shape of a town appropriation during the present year, a meeting was called for the following Tuesday evening, March 27th, to which were invited about forty persons, including the Town Fire Committee—the persons invited representing the various interests of all parts of the town.

At that meeting various plans for protection against fire were discussed, and it was resolved, "That it is the sense of this meeting that a hook and ladder truck, provided with small extinguishers, hand pumps, asbestos blankets, etc., is the most available and suitable apparatus for present use."

A temporary organization was formed, to be known as "The Bloomfield Fire Protective Association," and officers elected as follows:

President—J. M. Bancroft.
Vice-President—A. R. Brewer.
Treasurer—W. R. Weeks.
Recording Secretary—F. G. Tower.
Corresponding Secretary—W. L. Puffer.

Executive Committee—Rev. S. W. Duffield, G. T. Moore, J. H. Hardenstie, J. L. Walsh, and G. S. Porter, with the other five officers as members ex-officio.

Another resolution called the attention of the Town Committee to the advisability of providing for the protection of life and property by the use of fire.

The Executive Committee were authorized to appoint canvassers to solicit subscriptions to the fund for the purchase of apparatus for the protection of life and property by the use of fire.

Canvassers were selected as follows: J. H. Hardenstie, W. L. Puffer, A. R. Brewer, F. G. Tower, C. D. M. Peete, T. W. Langstroth, Jr., G. H. Sherman, E. F. Farrand, Howell Johnson, and Howard Davis.

A circular was then issued, and mailed to about 500 taxpayers, stating the purpose of the organization, and soliciting subscriptions.

Tuesday, April 10th, the canvassers commenced their labors, and deserve great credit for the successful work they have done.

Reports have been received from nearly all the canvassers, aggregating about \$1,400, up to last evening.

As the subscriptions have come in so liberally, exceeding the amount needed for a hook and ladder truck, and as some of our citizens have expressed a wish for some better means of putting out fires than could be expected from the small extinguishers and pumps in connection with the hook and ladder truck, the Executive Committee have instructed the canvassers to continue soliciting subscriptions, and to learn the views of the people generally as to the advisability of procuring a large chemical engine also.

The Executive Committee may while propose obtaining estimates of the cost of both the hook and ladder truck and of a chemical engine.

At a meeting of the Association, held Monday evening, April 23d, fifty one new members were elected.

Another meeting will soon be held, at which the new members will be invited, and the Executive Committee hope to be able then to report upon a definite plan of action.

Anniversary of the Odd Fellows Society. On Thursday evening Olive Branch Lodge, I. O. of O. F., celebrated the sixty-fourth Anniversary of the institution of the Order in this country.

Wives, sweethearts, and friends had been invited to participate in the enjoyment of a very pleasant programme. N. G. Jas. H. Way called the Lodge to order, and after reading the proclamation of the Grand Fire for the celebration, and welcoming the friends, called P. G. John Hall to the chair.

Mr. J. Banks Reford was the Historian of the evening, and the statistics he furnished gave a wonderful exhibition of growth from the small beginning of five members in the city of Baltimore in the year 1819, the Order now numbering half a million. This was followed by some excellent music by the Kropf family, Frank Brown, Miss Simmons, and a quintette of friends of the Lodge.

Welfare "an experience meeting was held, in which Bros. Folsom, Wheeler, Donnelly, Simons, and others participated. The evening closed with a fine collation to the guests and members.

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